

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-76. (cancelled)

77. (new) A control system for a printing or copying system, comprising at least one operating unit for input and output of operating information of the printing or copying system and which is connected via an external network connection with a first apparatus being a printing or copying apparatus in which is provided a first control unit that

controls the first apparatus, and

comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data;

graphical elements of a graphical user interface stored in a memory of the first apparatus, said graphical elements being transferred into the at least one operating unit and loaded there for display;

the control panel server in the first apparatus being connected via an internal network connection with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers;

at least one second control unit which controls at least one second apparatus of the printing or copying system;

a data line via which the first and second control units are connected with one another and via which the control data is transferred between the first and second control units with aid of a data transfer protocol; and

the control data is output by the at least one operating unit in addition to the operating information.

78. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein the second control unit is provided in the second apparatus to control it;

the control panel server is connected with a master system parameter manager provided in the first apparatus;

the control panel server implements a synchronization of settings between the apparatus' image acquisition of the first apparatus and a corresponding slave system parameter manager of the second apparatus; and

given an input of a first value of a first parameter in the first apparatus, a second value of a same parameter of the second apparatus is automatically modified depending on a value of the first parameter.

79. (new) A control system according to claim 78 wherein the first value and the second value are coupled with one another such that, given a change of one of the two values in a coupled state, the respective other value is modified by a same amount.

80. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein a web server is provided that has access to the memory, and stored data for graphical elements are designed for display of a web site.

81. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein the data for the graphical elements of the user interface are generated with aid of a Java programming language or Hypertext Markup Language and are transferred from the control panel server to the at least one operating unit by means of Remote Method Invocation.

82. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein said data transfer protocol is a Simple Network Management Protocol.

83. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein access to the operating information and to the control data takes place with aid of a distributed

object model in which objects are contained in the control units of the printing or copying system.

84. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein the at least one operating unit has at least one object for input or output of the operating information and the control data, wherein data transfer between the at least one operating unit and the first control unit occurs with aid of the at least one object.

85. (new) A control system according to claim 84 wherein a standardized model for abstract description of distributed objects occurs according to a Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

86. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein the control data contain control variables, wherein values of the control variables are output with aid of the at least one operating unit and the values are administered with aid of a management information base.

87. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein:
information of the control data are stored in a central database of the printing or copying system, wherein the information comprises at least a hierarchical classification of existing structure of control units and function units; and
in which the first control unit of the printing or copying system has access to the control data with aid of said information.

88. (new) A control system according to claim 87 wherein the first or second control units are a control unit of the printing or copying system.

89. (new) A control system according to claim 77 wherein a distributed object model using a network protocol is provided for transfer of the control data and the operating information between the first, second, and at least one control unit or a database.

90. (new) A control system according to claim 89 wherein the transfer takes place with aid of a Remote Method Invocation Communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol, wherein the database contains a Management Information Base.

91. (new) A control system according to claim 79 wherein an automatic modification of the first value or the second value of the same parameter is activated and deactivated.

92. (new) A method for input and output of operating information and control data of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

inputting or outputting the operating information with aid of at least one operating unit that is connected via an external network connection with a first apparatus being a printing or copying apparatus;

controlling with a first control unit the first apparatus, said first control unit comprising a control panel server which accesses the at least one operating unit as a client to output the control data;

storing graphical elements of a graphical user interface in a memory of the printing or copying system, and said graphical elements are transferred to the at least one operating unit and loaded for display;

the control panel server being connected via an internal network connection with a network agent and exchanging data via the network agent with a plurality of sub-controllers;

controlling a second apparatus of the printing or copying system with a second operating unit;

transferring control data between the first and the second control units via a data line with aid of a data transfer protocol; and

outputting at least a portion of the transferred control data with aid of the at least one operating unit.